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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/995,086	11/27/2001	Mihriban Ozden Pekguleryuz		1551

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HOLLAND & BONZAGNI, P.C.
171 DWIGHT ROAD, SUITE 302
LONGMEADOW, MA 01106-1700

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EXAMINER

JENKINS, DANIEL J

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1742

DATE MAILED: 09/16/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/995,086

Applicant(s)

PEKGULERYUZ ET AL.

Examiner

Daniel J. Jenkins

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 November 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 4.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other:

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1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

3. Claims 1-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamamoto et al. in view of Kono.

Yamamoto et al. disclose the invention substantially as claimed. Yamamoto et al disclose a magnesium based alloy formed by a method comprising:

providing a magnesium alloy melt; and

forming said melt into an alloy.

Yamamoto et al. further disclose wherein the alloy melt comprises a magnesium alloy selected from a group comprising magnesium alloys comprising aluminum, zinc and manganese (see col. 1, lines 50-57, and provided Samples).

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Yamamoto et al. further disclose wherein the alloy melt further comprises Sr in an amount of 0.02 to 0.5% (col. 2, liens 40-43).

Actual overlap of all ingredients in the prior art is not required; mere contact (i.e. end-point touching) or close approximation is sufficient to establish a prima facie case of obviousness. Titanium Metal Corp v. Banner, (CAFC 1985) 778 F.2d 775, 227 USPQ 575.

However, Yamamoto et al. is silent as to the atmosphere above the melt.

Kono teaches to provide an inert atmosphere of carbon dioxide and sulfur fluoride above a magnesium alloy melt in the same field of endeavor for the purpose of providing an atmosphere which minimizes oxidation of the melt.

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to use an inert atmosphere of carbon dioxide and sulfur fluoride above the magnesium alloy melt of Yamamoto et al. in order to minimizes oxidation of the melt.

4. The nonstatutory double patenting rejection is based on a judicially created doctrine grounded in public policy (a policy reflected in the statute) so as to prevent the unjustified or improper timewise extension of the "right to exclude" granted by a patent and to prevent possible harassment by multiple assignees. See *In re Goodman*, 11 F.3d 1046, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir. 1985); *In re Van Ornum*, 686 F.2d 937, 214 USPQ 761 (CCPA 1982); *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970); and, *In re Thorington*, 418 F.2d 528, 163 USPQ 644 (CCPA 1969).

A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a nonstatutory double patenting ground provided the conflicting application or patent is shown to be commonly owned with this application. See 37 CFR 1.130(b).

Effective January 1, 1994, a registered attorney or agent of record may sign a terminal disclaimer. A terminal disclaimer signed by the assignee must fully comply with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

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5. Claims 5-10 are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claim 1-15 of U.S. Patent No. 6,322,644 in view of Kono.

Kono teaches to form the melt of the prior patent by forming in an inert atmosphere of carbon dioxide and sulfur fluoride in order to minimize oxidation of the melt.

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to use an inert atmosphere of carbon dioxide and sulfur fluoride above the magnesium alloy melt of the prior patent in order to minimize oxidation of the melt.

6. Claims 5-10 are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-14 of U.S. Patent No. 6,342,180 in view of Yamamoto et al. in view of Kono.

Kono teaches to form the melt of the prior patent by forming in an inert atmosphere of carbon dioxide and sulfur fluoride in order to minimize oxidation of the melt.

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to use an inert atmosphere of carbon dioxide and sulfur fluoride above the magnesium alloy melt of the prior patent in order to minimize oxidation of the melt.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Daniel J. Jenkins whose telephone number is 703-306-4157. The examiner can normally be reached on M-TH 6:30AM-5:00PM.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Roy King can be reached on 703-308-1146. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0661.



Daniel J. Jenkins
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1742

dj
August 20, 2003